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UNDP: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Haiti's development needs and activities

Note by the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present note is submitted in response to Executive Board decision 95/4, which requested a progress report on the use of all available UNDP resources for Haiti, in order to authorize the Administrator to commit the remaining 50 per cent of the restored indicative planning figure (IPF), thus ensuring the necessary support to programmes and projects already identified by the Government of Haiti.

II. BACKGROUND AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

2. Despite the political crisis in Haiti (September 1991-October 1994), UNDP remained committed to maintaining assistance to the country. As mandated by the General Assembly, assistance during the crisis period was limited to humanitarian relief. Since the restoration of the constitutionally elected Government, UNDP assistance has been reoriented to reflect support for activities across the development spectrum. The period immediately following the reestablishment of the constitutional Government in October 1994 has been one of transition, reflecting the rapid deployment of resources, while moving towards the consolidation of the fifth-cycle country programme.

3. UNDP assistance has been provided through various extensions of the fourth-cycle country programme. At its thirty-ninth session, the Governing Council authorized the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis, upon resolution of the political crisis and pending the formulation and approval of



the fifth country programme (decision 92/25). Given the needs of the country, the Executive Board, in its decision 95/4, restored the fifth-cycle IPF to the level established in decision 90/34 and released 50 per cent of the resulting \$11,303,000 for programming of UNDP assistance.

III. TRANSITION PERIOD ACTIVITIES

4. Projects approved from January 1994 through 15 June 1995 are listed in annex II of the present report. Those projects were developed by the newly restored Government and the country office, in close collaboration with various United Nations agencies. The list reflects the rapid-response capacity of UNDP to meet the urgent needs of the Government in the period immediately following its reestablishment, particularly the most basic needs of the population and the support for institutional reforms necessary to ensure sustainable human development. The projects were formulated within the framework of the Emergency Economic Recovery Programme (EERP), and they reflect the priority themes identified by the Government and UNDP in the programming process for the fifth country programme for Haiti.

5. EERP, established by the Government together with the international community, has received the full support of the donor community, which pledged \$1.2 billion at the Consultative Group meeting in Paris in January 1995. The follow-up meeting, held from 11-12 May 1995, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, confirmed that the development targets remain valid and that the country has advanced with respect to the concerns among the donor community over the national capacity to absorb and execute the magnitude of assistance pledged.

6. The Government of Haiti is progressively phasing out of the transitional period and is focusing its efforts on the development of national strategies for long-term sustainable development. Indeed, the Government has identified a comprehensive strategy, which focuses on: (a) the decentralization of power from the central Government to municipalities, along with reform of the public sector; (b) the creation of a macroeconomic environment conducive to private sector development and job creation; and (c) improved access to basic social services and food security for the poor.

7. In keeping with the Government's strategy, UNDP support currently identifies three areas of concentration: (a) strengthening the democratic process and public sector management; (b) economic growth and poverty alleviation; and (c) protection and management of the environment. While moving through the transition process from the emergency period to sustainable development, UNDP has concentrated on capacity-building and strengthening management development in the above-mentioned areas.

8. UNDP-supported activities in the field of governance aim to reinforce the executive, legislative and judicial branches of power, as well as the decentralization of governmental functions to local structures and the reconstruction of civil society institutions. Projects of note in the field of governance include: assistance to the Presidency; reform of the public sector; direct institutional support to reinforce the functions of key, line ministries; assistance to the Parliament; penitentiary reform; civic education; and support

for municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the media. UNDP support has been instrumental in attracting additional donor-financing for those priority areas, particularly for reform of the public sector, civic education and prison reform.

9. In support of economic growth and poverty reduction, UNDP is involved in development projects for enhanced productivity and employment creation, through activities in agriculture, the non-formal private sector, labour intensive works and tourism. Additionally, projects have been developed to increase access to basic services for the poor, including potable water and sanitation programmes, basic education, functional literacy and health. Additional resources have been committed by the international community to the UNDP programmes, especially in the area of agricultural production.

10. In the area of environment, UNDP is supporting the formulation of a national environmental action plan, as well as programmes focusing on improving erosion-control structures, supporting reforestation and promoting alternative energy sources. The levels of environmental degradation throughout the country have contributed to the impoverishment of rural areas, and long-term support will be necessary to effect the necessary revitalization of the national ecosystem.

11. Aid coordination remains a priority role for UNDP. During the emergency period, UNDP managed to secure strong relations with United Nations agencies, the international financial institutions and the main bilateral donors. Among the donor community, UNDP has been given the lead role for coordinating activities in the high-profile governance sector. United Nations agencies have also collaborated on a multi-agency strategy for cooperation, to manage the transition process. A UNDP project has been initiated to support the management of external cooperation and establish mechanisms for impact assessment.

12. The transition period has also witnessed changes in the implementation of projects and programmes from largely NGO-managed to an increased partnership with the Government. The additional resources approved by the Executive Board have permitted the addition of new implementing agencies to those organizations which have been working effectively with UNDP throughout the emergency period. In addition, innovative instruments for enhancing project and programme management and execution have been developed, including the establishment of a partnership with the United Nations Mission in Haiti, for technical and engineering support for infrastructure work.

13. To address concerns over the absorptive capacity of the country to execute the EERP, a strategy for increasing national capacity was proposed to the international community to the Government and UNDP during the Consultative Group follow-up meeting. In the context of that strategy, UNDP is putting in place a number of mechanisms, including: (a) the establishment of a programme and project formulation facility to facilitate access to international resources; (b) the promotion of a United Nations Office for Project Services outpost office to accelerate project execution; (c) assistance through a project to provide contracting and procurement services to national institutions charged with the implementation of programmes and projects; and (d) a project to strengthen the role and functions of NGOs.

14. Given the rapid response from UNDP in the development of the above-mentioned projects, IPF commitments to date amount to \$37,455,000 (see annex I), and expenditures for 1995-1996 will increase five-fold, from an average of \$3 million in 1992-1994, to \$15 million in 1995 and \$20 million in 1996. Although it is too early to assess the impact of UNDP assistance, the rapid response to urgent needs has already brought results. The civic education project clearly has contributed to the high registration of voters (over 90 per cent) for the coming elections. The support given to key institutions of the executive branch and the regional and local governments has permitted the Presidency, the Prime Minister's office, the Ministries of Planning, Finance, Environment and Women and the mayors, to carry out their corresponding functions within the framework of the reconstruction programme. With regard to the social sector, current UNDP assistance will result in the provision of water for 465,000 additional persons by the end of 1995.

IV. PROGRAMME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FIFTH CYCLE

15. For the remainder of the fifth cycle, the fifth country programme (DP/CP/HAI/5) is being submitted to the present session of the Executive Board. The programme proposes that UNDP assistance target the following: (a) the promotion of national consensus and the preparation of reform policies and laws; (b) the formulation of national programmes and the mobilization of resources for their implementation; and (c) the coordination of the various actors involved in the implementation of integrated packages for sustainable human development at the local level. Upon Executive Board approval of the fifth country programme, programmes will be maintained in the three priority areas of governance, economic growth and poverty reduction, and the protection and management of the environment, as listed in annex III.

16. However, in order to ensure impact and to consolidate and further strengthen existing programmes, additional funds will be required. In particular, resources are needed in the area of governance. Assistance for enhancing judicial reform has been identified by the Government of Haiti for UNDP support. Institution-strengthening and the continued work of UNDP in capacity-building will require additional funds, if current efforts are to be sustained over the medium term.

17. Funds will also be required in order to support the Government in the process of long-term planning for sustainable human development. Such planning will form the basis of the preparations for the sixth cycle. UNDP already has been requested by the Government of Haiti to provide assistance in long-term planning for reform of the public sector, decentralization, and water and energy management.

18. During the new phase of activities, and as the transition period closes, the Government and UNDP are committed to reprogramming resources and technical interventions, in order to realize the programme approach to further enhance coordination, mobilize additional donor resources and enhance the overall impact of development activities.

V. EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

19. The Administrator recommends that the Executive Board:
 1. Take note of the information contained in the present note;
 2. Authorize the Administrator to release the remaining 50 per cent of the restored IPF for programming.

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Annex I

STATUS OF IPF RESOURCES

FIFTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE, 1992-1996

	\$	\$
Carry-over from fourth-cycle IPF	6 310 000	
Fifth-cycle IPF (per Executive Board decision 95/4)	<u>37 678 000</u>	
Available resources for fifth cycle		<u>43 988 000</u>
Funds held in reserve per Executive Board decision 95/4	<u>(5 650 000)</u>	
Total programmable resources		<u>38 338 000</u>
Budgets approved as at 15 June 1995		<u>37 455 000</u>

Annex II

APPROVED PROJECTS
(In thousands of United States dollars)

A. AREA OF CONCENTRATION: GOVERNANCE (G)

Reference number	Title of project	IPF	Cost-sharing	Total IPF and cost-sharing	Other funds
	PROJECTS APPROVED BEFORE 1994	7 199		7 199	378 (SPR)
	PROJECTS APPROVED FROM JANUARY 1994				
HA1/94/001	Human resources database	314		314	
HA1/94/002	Strengthening of grass-roots organizations	550		550	
HA1/94/003	Support to municipalities	980		980	
HA1/94/004	Cooperation Haiti/Dominican Republic	100		100	
HA1/94/005	Dissemination of information on Haiti	517		517	
HA1/94/010	Civic Education	610		610	
HA1/94/012	Management and follow-up of external cooperation	989		989	
HA1/94/014	Public sector management	497		497	
HA1/94/015	Support to Parliament	187		187	
HA1/94/016	Regional Planning III	862		862	
HA1/95/001	Use of expatriates for economic reconstruction	615		615	
HA1/95/004	Truth Commission	1 000		1 000	
HA1/95/006	Penitentiary reform	344		344	
HA1/95/007	Support to the Ministry of Finance	800	1 275	2 075	
HA1/95/008	Strengthening of absorption capacity of NGOs	833		833	
HA1/95/009	Strengthening of economic and financial management	1 500		1 500	
HA1/95/017	Support to President's office	442		442	
HA1/95/023	Seminars and conferences	100		100	
Subtotal	GOVERNANCE	18 439	1 275	19 714	378 (SPR)

B. AREA OF CONCENTRATION: ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (EP)

Reference number	Title of project	IPF	Cost-sharing	Total IPF and cost-sharing	Other funds
	PROJECTS APPROVED BEFORE 1994	11 792	74	11 866	0
	PROJECTS APPROVED FROM JANUARY 1994				
HA1/94/008	Coordination of humanitarian aid	0		0	50 (SPR)
HA1/94/011	Gordon storm emergency aid	0		0	50 (SPR)
HA1/94/013	Integrated programme for refugees and displaced persons	900		900	
HA1/95/002	Urban and rural informal sector	378		378	
HA1/95/003	Employment promotion	180		180	
HA1/95/010	Route 2004: culture, tourism, environment	873		873	
HA1/95/014	Reactivation of cooperatives and associations	975		975	
HA1/95/015	Tourism master plan	480		480	
HA1/95/016	United Nations Volunteers support to reconstruction programme	885		885	
Subtotal	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION	16 463	74	16 537	100 (SPR)

C. AREA OF CONCENTRATION: PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (EM)

Reference number	Title of project	IPF	Cost-sharing	Total IPF and cost-sharing	Other funds
	PROJECTS APPROVED BEFORE 1994	1 569	0	1 569	0
HA/95/013	PROJECTS APPROVED FROM JANUARY 1994 Reconstruction of areas affected by Gordon storm	984	0	984	0
Subtotal	PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT	2 553	0	2 553	0
GRAND TOTAL	(G) + (EP) + (EM)	37 455	1 349	38 804	478

Abbreviations: IPF = indicative planning figure, SPR = Special Programme Resources, NGOs = non-governmental organizations

Annex III

PIPELINE FOR THE FIFTH CYCLE

Area and programme/project title	Total amount of funds anticipated <u>a/</u>
<u>Governance</u>	
Strengthening of public sector decentralization	20 000 000
Support to the education sector	<u>500 000</u>
Subtotal	20 500 000
<u>Economic growth and poverty alleviation</u>	
Strengthening management in the education sector	1 200 000
Women in development	400 000
Labour intensive public works	13 000 000
Modernization of postal services	<u>300 000</u>
Subtotal	14 900 000
<u>Protection and management of the environment</u>	
Protection of watersheds	<u>1 100 000</u>
Subtotal	1 100 000
Total	<u>36 500 000</u>

a/ Includes expected cost-sharing.
